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millions of pounds sterling, had sailed for Mexico, ignorant of the blockade, had been ordered off, and had returned home without landing their cargoes. Probably England alone has already lost, by the blockade, a sum equal to the demand of France. Who shall decide what is sufficient notice? a congress of nations, or every nation for itself?

10. Who shall decide whether a blockade is properly enforced or not? Shall a single frigate blockade a thousand miles of coast? Formerly, a blockade was not considered as enforced, unless a city was blockaded by sea and land. Modern practice has allowed of paper blockades. Who shall decide what is an effectual blockade? Who can do it but a congress of nations?

These questions of international law, and some others, have already arisen on this trivial subject, and many more will probably arise, which may convulse the world with war and all its evils, moral and physical, and yet the world may grow no wiser by its sufferings. Is it not time, that our nation should call on the nations of Europe and South America for a congress of nations to redress, or at least to mitigate, these evils? But our government will never do it until called on by *the people*; the people will never call upon the government, until they are enlightened; and they can never be enlightened without exertion and sacrifice. Every one has it now in his power to help on this glorious consummation, by supporting the American Peace Society.

WORKINGS OF THE WAR-PRINCIPLE IN CANADA.

Our periodical is too infrequent to notice all the passing events of war; but we have often been tempted to comment on the tragedies enacted the last year or two on our northern and south-western frontiers; nor can we refrain from giving a few specimens of the way in which the war-principle invariably shows itself, in the grossest outrages upon order, law and humanity.

Our readers are familiar with the history of Canadian disturbances, and can easily imagine what feelings of mutual jealousy, hatred and revenge, must have been generated all along our northern frontier, and to what deeds of vengeance

they would naturally prompt. It seems that in the month of December, 1838, some fifteen or twenty armed Americans from Vermont crossed the line about half a mile, and set fire in the dead of night to the out-houses of one Gibson, a loyalist. The family woke in terror at the glare of the flames around them; Gibson, to save his life, leaped naked from the window of his chamber, and fled; and his wife with five children, one an infant, was ordered to flee at once. She begged that she might stop long enough to cover herself and her babes with clothes sufficient to keep them—the thermometer ranged during the night from 10 to 18 degrees below zero—from freezing to death; but the assailants, loading them with curses, set fire to the house over their heads, and forced them, without a shoe on their feet, and with scarce a garment on their backs, to wade through the drifted snow three-quarters of a mile to the nearest shelter. They played the same game of violence and cruelty upon a succession of families, and were with difficulty prevailed upon in one case by the entreaties and tears of a mother watching the sick bed of her daughter, not to burn the house about them, after having set fire to the barns, and broken in the windows and doors.

Grogan, the leader of these savage bandits, and the owner of an estate in the same neighborhood, was visited himself with similar treatment; but whether as the cause or as the consequence of those outrages, we are unable to say, and care little to know, because either supposition illustrates the nature and effects of the war-principle. Fifteen volunteers went to his house, and forced him at the point of the bayonet to leave the province, and subsequently his wife, under the threat of burning the house. Their furniture, a large stock of cattle, and two barns full of hay and grain, were left, and mostly destroyed, in the burning of all the buildings on the premises. They did the same to another American resident who had taken no part in the recent troubles of Canada; and these may be regarded as specimens of what has been alternately perpetrated and suffered on the Canadian frontiers.

We wonder that such reciprocal outrages have not involved us in war with England; and they would long ago, had the war-spirit raged in Great Britain, and through the whole extent of our own country, as it has along the Canada line. In consequence of the above-recited affair, “great excitement,” we are told, “prevailed in Vermont, the military were all in motion, shots were interchanged across the line, and a loyal

picket-guard, having ventured across the line, was made prisoner, but subsequently released."

1. How admirably does the war-principle guarantee the continuance of peace! Here we see its legitimate workings; and nothing but a resort to *pacific* measures could prevent war to the knife. Had there been no war-preparations in this case, no means at hand of annoyance or defence, the atrocities we have recorded could never have occurred.

2. Just reflect on the common estimate of war-deeds. In the cases before us, we find only what is common in every species of war; and, had the Canadians acquired by the sword what they sought, or some of our own citizens sought for them, such deeds of savage atrocity as we have quoted, would, if sufficiently numerous and successful, have covered many a warrior with unfading laurels! and Christians themselves would have joined in the chorus of hosannas to their name!

3. What blessed results do we find here of our own Revolution! Our fathers claimed the right, whenever they chose, of resisting, sword in hand, the government over them; and the Canadians and Texians, the lynchites of the South, and the mobocrats of the North, the East and the West, merely follow in their footsteps. They all proceed on the same principle. 'Give us our rights, or we'll take them,' said the revolutionists of '76 to their rulers. 'Give us our rights, or we'll take them,' say the Canadian insurgents. 'Give us our rights, or we'll take them,' reëcho the sovereign mob at Harrisburg to the Legislature of Pennsylvania. 'Give us our rights, or we'll take them,' reiterated the mobs of Boston, and New York, Cincinnati and Philadelphia. It is in every case the old tune of the Revolution; and we fear it will yet be sung to the ruin of our free and glorious institutions.

THE CONTEST BETWEEN FRANCE AND MEXICO.

FRANCE AND MEXICO: *An Examination of the difficulties between those Powers.* BY A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES.

Public opinion is the only earthly tribunal before which rulers can be arraigned; and the press, as the chief organ of this omnipresent tribunal, ought to watch their movements with sleepless vigilance, and utter in tones of thunder its warnings or rebukes against every movement towards war. Had the